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Grasses in the Wrong Genus Cover.

BY W. J. BEAL.

In the BULLETIN, page 11, 1888, are described some new species of grasses, among them *Poa macrantha*, Vasey, and *Poa argentea*, T. Howell. I believe these belong to the genus *Melica*.

MELICA ARGENTEA (Howell). An erect, loosely-tufted perennial, 15-20 cm. high. Radical leaves numerous, curved, conduplicate, 3-7 cm. long, in cross section oblong, 0.6-0.8 mm. diameter, bulliform cells wanting, apex obtuse, sheaths loose, membranous, ligule 2-3 mm. long, blades of the culm 2, conduplicate, 11-nerved, 1.5 cm. long by 1.3 mm. diameter, ligule acute 3-5 mm. long. Panicle oblong, spike-like, 2-3 cm. long. Spikelets oblong-linear, 6-8 mm. long, 3-5 flowered, joint of rachilla 1.7-2 mm. long. All the glumes brownish shining, with broad scarious margins. Empty glumes subequal, 3-4-5-nerved, obovate, ovate, variously lobed, toothed or entire, 3.5-5 mm. long; floral glume oval or obovate when spread, denticulate, 5-6-7-nerved, minutely scabrid or smooth, 5.5 mm. long, palea lanceolate, about the length of its glume, scabrous on the keels, anthers 3, 2.5 mm. long.

The following, among other things, indicate that this is a species of *Melica*: the soft, smooth or scarious obovate or irregularly toothed glumes, empty glumes often 4-5-nerved, the long spongy joints of the rachilla, the floral glume without hair at the base, often 6-7 nerved, the nerves evanescent, not connivent above.

Plants from T. Howell ticketed *Poa argentea*, Howell, collected in Siskiyou Mountains, Oregon, July 18, 1887; also from U. S. Agr. Dept. ticketed *Poa macrantha*, Vasey, collected on sea coast, Oregon, by Thomas Howell.

MELICA MACRANTHA, (Vasey).—A smooth stout perennial 3-4 dm. high, ascending from creeping rootstocks. Leaves of the culm, excepting 2-3 of the upper ones, bear in their axils non-flowering leafy branches. Leaves of these branches conduplicate, curved and flexuose, often extending to the panicle, the extreme apex obtuse or abruptly pointed, in cross-section oval or

circular, 5–10 mm. in diameter, a set of small bulliform cells on each side and near the mid-nerve; those of the culm a little wider, the upper one 1–5 cm. long, sheaths compressed, loose, ligule 1–2 mm. long. Panicle erect, dense, sometimes interrupted below, 4–10 cm. long, rays in twos and threes, stout, erect, the longest 3–5 cm. long. *Staminate* spikelets compressed, ovate-lanceolate or oval, 4–7 flowered, 10–15 mm. long, light green or yellowish; joint of rachilla large, soft, sparingly pubescent, 1.5–2 mm. long. Empty glumes oblong-lanceolate, soft-scabrid, 1st 3–4–5 nerved, 7–10 mm. long, 2d 3–7 nerved, 8–11 mm. long; floral glume oval, or oval-lanceolate, with soft hairs at the base and lower part of the keel; apex notched, awnless, 3–10 nerved (even on glumes from the same panicle), 8–10 mm. long, palea but very little shorter than its glume, linear, ciliate on the keels, apex notched; anthers 5 mm. long. *Pistillate* spikelets have joints of the rachilla shorter, empty glumes and floral glume a little shorter.

The compressed spikelets and conduplicate leaves point to affinities with *Poa*; the following show affinities with *Melica*: large, soft-scabrid, light green or yellowish spikelets, glumes oval, floral glume notched at the apex, not keeled, rachilla large, long and soft, empty glumes usually more than 3 nerved and floral glume often more than 5–7 nerved.

Poa macrantha, Vasey.—Specimens from T. Howell, sand dunes Tilamook Bay, Oregon; also from Dr. G. Vasey.

A Notable Collection of Botanists.

It will doubtless be of interest to botanists to know that in the Wolff collection of engravings, recently presented to the Syracuse University, many portraits of botanists are included. Of the 12,000 portraits of distinguished men of all times and from all lands included in this collection, some 6,000 have been catalogued. From this catalogue we note the names of the following botanists: *

ADANSON, Aiton, Barrelier, CASPAR BAUHIN (6), *Hieron.*

* Names in small caps are represented in the collection in folio size; those in italics in quarto; those in Roman type are mostly in octavo, but a few are duodecimo. A number after the name indicates the number of different portraits of the man.